

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

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R 192045Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3999

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 7706

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: LAFTA

SUBJECT: LAFTA MEETINGS

REF STATE 198582

1. LIMA MEETING OF CHIEFS OF INTEGRATION ORGANIZATIONS PRODUCED LITTLE REACTION IN ARGENTINA. THERE WERE STORIES IN MOST OF THE NEWSPAPERS BUT NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. FROM THE ARGENTINE POINT OF VIEW, THE MEETING WAS NOT INTENDED TO PRODUCE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND DID NOT DO SO. ARGENTINE REPRESENTATION WAS AT LOW LEVEL, BUT THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE GOA DISDAIN FOR THIS KIND OF MEETING. WE ARE TOLD THAT UNDERSECRETARY TETTAMANTI CONSIDERED GOING BUT HAD OTHER MORE PRESSING ENGAGEMENTS.

2. GOA HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHO WILL ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF THIS GROUP SCHEDULED FOR NOV 22 AT MONTEVIDEO.

3. ARGENTINA'S RELATIONS WITH THE ANDEAN PACT CONTINUE TO BE THE SUBJECT OF OCCASIONAL NEWS STORIES AND COMMENTS BY PUBLIC

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FIGURES. RECENTLY, DR MARIO CADENAS MADARIAGA, FORMER

ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO LAFTA, SPOKE ON THIS SUBJECT TO THE EXPORT MANAGERS ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN BUENOS AIRES. NOT SURPRISINGLY, HE SAID THAT ARGENTINA COULD NOT AND SHOULD NOT JOIN THE ANDEAN PACT SINCE THE PACT WOULD NOT PERMIT ARGENTINE MEMBERSHIP ON EQUAL TERMS, BECAUSE ANDEAN COUNTRIES' INDUSTRY COULD NOT COMPETE WITH ARGENTINA'S. HE ADDED THAT ARGENTINA SHOULD NOT BECOME A MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZATION IN WHICH IT WOULD NOT HAVE A VETO. DR CADENAS RECOMMENDED SOME FORM OF ASSOCIATION WICH WOULD PERMIT ARGENTINA TO TRADE WITH THE ANDEANS AND EVEN ESTABLISH MANUFACTURING SUBSIDIARIES OF ARGENTINE COMPANIES.

4. A RECENT STORY IN "LA PRENSA" FROM ITS MADRID CORRESPONDENT, TALKS ABOUT SPANISH APPROACHES TO THE ANDEAN PACT. THE STORY INDICATES AN INTEREST BY THE GOS IN INCREASING ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE ANDEAN PACT BY OPERATING THRU ARGENTINA, POSSIBLY FORMING SPANISH-ARGENTINE JOINT VENTURES FOR INVESTMENT IN ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES (SEE BA A-462, 26 AUG 71).

5. WITH RESPECT TO THE SELECTION OF NEW LAFTA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, THE MATTER IS NOT AT PRESENT ON THE AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL LAFTA CONFERENCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LAFTA GOVERNMENTS ARE HAPPY WITH PASCUAL MARTINEZ AND ARE NOT PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO CHANGE THE PRESENT SITUATION. IT IS LIKELY THAT MARTINEZ WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WITH INFORMAL AGREEMENT THAT HE WOULD RESIGN WHEN AND IF THE LAFTA MEMBERS DECIDED TO SET UP A THREE-MAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT. THIS IS UNLIKELY TO OCCUR BEFORE THE END OF 1974. DECON 10/19/74.

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